

# THE BROAD AX

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

With promulgation and at all times uphold the true principles of Democracy, but Catholics, Protestants, Priests, Indians, Single Taxers, Republicans, or anyone else can have their say, as long as their language is proper and responsibility is fixed.

The Broad Ax is a newspaper whose platform is broad enough for all, ever claiming the editorial right to speak its own mind.

Local communications will receive attention. Write only on one side of the paper.

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**JULIUS F. TAYLOR**, Editor and Publisher.

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## NOTHING FOR THE NEGRO.

Those among the Negro race who are shaking hands with themselves upon the recent utterances of Mr. Taft on disfranchisement in the South can see more of comfort or consolation for themselves in whatever Mr. Taft has said or implied than can the Southern American.

First, the disfranchising laws were enacted more with the end in view of enabling the Bourbon regime to manipulate and perpetuate political control than for mere Negro disfranchisement. By the written and unwritten avenues open for chicanery in these new state constitutions it is possible to keep the present political aristocracy, which is no more than the progeny of the old slave-owning oligarchy, well entrenched in the saddle in that the process eliminates the masses of the whites and practically mows down all of the blacks.

Appealing to the moral sense of men who fail to recognize such a thing when it stands between the Bourbon Democracy and success, appealing to men who subject men to taxation and give them no voice in representation, this is as effective as that proposition of pouring water upon the back of a duck. Either will effect as much as the other to change the situation.

Day by day and year by year the Negro is drifting further from any political privilege or opportunity in the South. It is right into the hands of those who have brought this about for Mr. Taft to talk about this thing of equality of application of justice, and denying voice in representation where there is taxation is injustice. The disfranchising statesmen have all along broadly proclaimed fairness in the application of these laws. These people can find no difficulty in lining up with Mr. Taft. Pretense and practice, however, are far apart.

We are not unwilling that the 175,000 disfranchised Negro voters in Alabama, if they want to swallow the dose prepared for them by Mr. Taft, but we protest for the 100,000 disfranchised whites that this disfranchisement is no only not a blessing, but it is a positive curse in that men feel the less the responsibility of government when they lose their sovereign governing power.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Taft will be president long enough to know that these Bourbon colonels are not the South, not at all, either of the South, not all of it, either of the white or the black South. They are a deceptive, ingenious, cunning set of political geniuses, however, and their smile will smile every while with the Taft smile. They will wind up with the best of the political diplomacy and with a good share of the office. Mr. Taft can not expect votes from the disfranchised South. He will get the laugh, in the end, instead of votes from the Bourbon colonel South.

Mark this political prediction of the Southern American. This gang down here will nibble about Mr. Taft's book until they have gotten off the bait and then the school of fish that he has taken for Taft suckers will swim away.

Every inch of ground that the Republican party ever gains in the South will be gained by hard fighting. It will be gained by going up against the gang and espousing the cause of the oppressed white South as well as by granting simple justice to the Negro.

This is just what the Southern American believes about it, and no sort of Taftism will change this conviction. The giving of the editor's postoffice to another is insufficient to browbeat him into line with the fal-

lacy of this new-fangled Republican policy of acquiescence into Bourbon disfranchisement. The Southern American, Alexander City, Alabama.

## URGE STATE STREET PAVING.

Property Owners Demand Quick South Side Improvement.

### SAY IT IS NOW A MUDHOLE.

Point to Conditions Between Thirty-ninth and Sixty-third. Property owners along State street, from Thirty-ninth to Sixty-third street, are up in arms against the delays attendant upon the paving of that thoroughfare.

At a meeting held at 4300 State street Tuesday evening, strong objections were voiced against the attitude of the board of local improvements on the subject and action was taken to bring about a pressure for reform. A committee of twenty-five property owners was appointed to keep constant watch over the matter and to take necessary steps before the board and the County court.

John Burns, who is in business at Thirty-ninth and State streets, presided over this meeting, which was attended by 200 thoroughly aroused property owners and business men. They declared that State street was a mud hole in the winter time and a desert of Sahara in the summer.

Robert Burck acted as secretary of the meeting, and its outcome was the organization of the "State Street Property Owners' and Business Men's Improvement Association," and on Wednesday morning John V. Burns, P. J. Cummings, Julius C. Birck, John Weber and other well known business men along on South State street, appeared before Judge Hinchbaugh and declared the improvements are demanded by all save a few misguided property owners.

The delegation also called on the members of the board of local improvements and urged them to proceed with the paving of State street from 39th to 63rd street without any further delay.

### Speakers Criticize Lawyers.

Considerable indignation was expressed over the fact that certain lawyers have secured signatures of a number of property owners under false pretenses and now are responsible for the holding up of action by the board of local improvements.

"I was visited by lawyers, who said they could save me money if I would let them object to the improvement," said P. J. Cummings. "These fellows collect a \$3 appearance fee, and then enter the appearance of all their victims in court for \$3 and pocket the difference. If there is a rebate coming to the property owner they take part of it as fees."

It is a burning disgrace to Chicago to permit State street to remain in its present condition and the business men in the district referred to should keep up a bitter fight day and night until it is repaired and put in first-class condition.

## THE CLOSING WEEK OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF WILLIAMS AND WALKER, AT THE GREAT NORTHERN THEATRE.

At the end of this week, Williams and Walker close their engagement at the Great Northern Theatre, where they have been playing to crowded houses for the past five weeks.

Monday evening, the editor and Mrs. Taylor took in the show for the first time, and were very favorably impressed with it.

The costumes worn by the beautiful ladies were very fine and pleasing to the eye.

There is nothing in connection with Bandanna Land, as portrayed by Williams and Walker and their star performer, that the most sensitive colored person could take exception to.

On the whole the play undoubtedly raises the Afro-American in the estimation of those who witness it.

Mrs. Aida Overton Walker, in her latest and newest song, "O, you Devil," is the real thing, and with glittering diamonds and a flaming red spangled costume and most artistic and graceful dancing, she caught the eye of the ladies, as well as the bald-headed men who invariably occupy front seats at each performance.

Williams and Walker are both very clever in their respective roles, and of the two, Bert Williams seems to be the favorite with the audience.

There is much good talent scattered among the other members of the show. The music rendered by a colored orchestra was exceptionally superb, and for our part, we greatly enjoyed it and would rather have enjoyed it and would rather have been separated from a ten spot than have missed witnessing "Bandanna Land."



**ALDERMAN MICHAEL McINERNEY,**  
Continues to labor for the best interests of all his constituents in the 30th ward and he will be re-elected to the city council at the April election without any opposition.

## NEGROES IN BUSINESS.

One of the drawbacks among Negroes in business is the low economic ideals of the race as a whole. Few Negroes will attempt to build up a really large business. When they have a few hundred dollars' income, as much as they would earn at the trade or occupation at which they were formerly employed, they often then aspire for social rather than business leadership, and, being better off than the great mass of their race, they merely attempt to remain the "social leaders" of the group. This has been the rock on which many Negro caterers and barbers have wrecked their business. Then there is carelessness and indifference to business methods. The early co-operation results very often resulted in the accumulation of two or three hundred dollars of the money of a dozen or more individuals; then dissatisfaction followed on the part of the shareholders because of fancied or real reasons, often because they were not receiving fabulous amounts in dividends, or because they received no dividend the first month or so; and often because their unbonded treasurer misappropriated the funds or left town. Thus have groceries, factories and "syndicates" gone down in nearly every part of the country, and a kind of distrust is still felt in many communities.

But each year better trained men are entering the field, and more success is assured; the day of wholesale failure of corporate efforts is rapidly passing, especially failure because of lack of business knowledge. While the signs do not point to anything especially remarkable, yet there is every evidence in Northern cities that an increasing number of Negroes will build up businesses catering chiefly to those of their own race, and employing a large number of their own people.—R. R. Wright, Jr., in the Southern Workman.

## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS PRAISES THE BROAD AX.

It can be truly said that The Broad Ax, for more than a year past has given more space in its columns than any other weekly paper in the Middle West to the articles on tuberculosis and talks on health and how to keep well, which have been sent forth by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, with their headquarters at 105 E. 22nd street, New York City, N. Y.

In appreciation of our efforts in that direction, Dr. Livingston Farrand, secretary of the executive committee of the association, forwarded us a letter the past week thanking us and praising The Broad Ax for the great work it is accomplishing along the lines indicated.

Some of the most prominent M. Ds. and laymen in the United States are members, and contribute financially to the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, and for our part, we feel highly honored to receive a letter of commendation from its secretary, and will continue to assist in the work by publishing all articles and information pertaining to the campaign against tuberculosis.

See article in another column of The Broad Ax.

### Woman Closes Dives.

It is reported that a woman has closed the dives and gambling joints at Denver. She is a colored woman and complained to Chief Armstrong that her husband, who earns good wages, gambled away all his money

in these dives and left her and her children destitute. The chief closed them at once.

## MORTALITY OF COLORED PEOPLE.

District Health Officer Makes Report. The colored population of the District of Columbia, according to the recent report of Dr. Woodward, District Health Officer, made 29.2 per cent. of the entire population, but contributed 42.73 per cent of all the deaths.

He attributes the excessive mortality to "the bad food, bad clothing, bad housing, ignorance and poverty," and says further that to "that extent it may be said to be preventable."

The New American, Washington, D. C. The same conditions largely prevail among the colored people in Chicago, as is evidenced among them in Washington, and the result is that the death rate is very high here also, and from now henceforth all who are opposed to improving the sanitary condition of these houses and street where the great majority of the colored people reside will be fought right and left through the columns of The Broad Ax.

## APPOMATTOX CLUB.

Chief Justice Harry Olson and the Hon. J. W. E. Bowen have been secured by the Library Committee to address the Club on Lincoln and Douglass night, Feb. 13th. These two eminent characters will make it well worth spending the evening with the Appomattox Club, should you be fortunate enough to secure an invitation.

The Secretary has been authorized to call in subscriptions to the building fund and is kept busy these days counting and banking the cash as the Club purpose building and be in a home of its own ere the summer time.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors a dispensation of \$5.00 for initiation fees instead of \$10.00, was voted for sixty days, and the House Membership Committee, under Chairman A. C. Harris, has been kept quite busy since.

## DEATH OF DR. PRATHER.

Formerly of Evanston, Ill.

To the Editor of The Broad Ax.

Dr. T. W. Prather, formerly of Evanston, Ill., who for the past five years has been practicing medicine in Louisville, Ky., departed this life January 25th last, and his body brought to this city and interred at Rose Hill Cemetery on Sunday, January 31, 1909. Funeral services were held at Baptist church of Evanston, Illinois.

Many resolutions were read by the pastor prior to this or during the services from the Masonic Order, the Red Cross Society of Louisville, and other charitable organizations in which he was connected, extolling the many ways in which he had rendered his services in a most commendable manner.

E. J. Prather.

### Card of Thanks.

I wish to return my sincere thanks to Lady Elliott Circle of the Ancient Order of Foresters and the many friends for their kind words of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes in my late bereavement of my father, who passed away at my home, Jan. 27, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Miss Elizabeth V. Johnson.  
3233 Wabash Ave.

## CHATEAU RINK NOTES.

Special Program Tonight and Tomorrow Night.  
Mr. Noah D. Thompson and Mr. H. Buttist and escort were at the Chateau this week.

The Falstaffian Mask Skate Fest at the Chateau Friday night last was a grand success. School children as well as adults had a splendid time and all are clamoring for its repetition.

The next feature of unusual interest at the Chateau will be the Mask Mardi Gras Carnival, Tuesday, Feb. 23rd. This carnival on a small scale will equal the pageant at New Orleans and those wishing rare treat should not fail to take in this function.

## CHIPS

Mrs. Franklin, 329 34th street, is on the sick list.

Mrs. Mamie Smith, 439 36th street, is confined to her house with a badly sprained ankle.

Mrs. Lottie Williams, of Williams & Walker, is confined to her bed in Provident Hospital.

Mr. Arthur Richardson who has been confined at the Dunning Tubercular Hospital, died Feb. 3.

Mrs. Harriet Dade, 95 26th Place who was recently injured by a street car is again able to about.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Jameson have bought a farm near Riverview, where they intend making their future home.

Mrs. Laura Lapsley, 5120 Dearborn street, will spend the month of February in Hot Springs, Ark.

Mrs. Lulu Obleton, 3219 Dearborn street, member of Mysterious Ten, No. 22, is confined to her bed with pneumonia.

Mr. Fred Colby, of St. Paul, who has been the guest of Mr. Thos. Green, 3736 Forest avenue, left the city Monday for his home.

Miss Hattie Winslow, who has been identified with "The Smart Set" for the past three months is ill at her home 4528 St. Lawrence avenue.

Mr. Thos. Galloway, 5216 Dearborn street, who has been ill for the past two weeks, is again able to resume work.

Mr. Jacob Parks, 3151 State street, will leave the city the last of the month for Washington, D. C., to see Mr. Taft seated.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank James, 3348 Dearborn street, entertained a few friends at whist Tuesday Eve in honor of Miss Gertrude Reilly, of Freeport, Ill.

Ex-Alderman James J. McCormick will not enter the aldermanic contest in the 5th ward, but he will stand aside in favor of his friend, John J. Shean.

Alderman John W. Downey has considerable opposition to go up against in the 29th ward. But he feels cock sure of winning out at the primaries February 23d over his opponents and retaining his seat in the city council.

Alderman P. J. O'Connell has served the people residing in the 31st ward well and faithfully for a long time, and they will stick to him at the primaries on the day of the election making it possible for him to be a winner.

Edward Carroll, 6022 Carpenter street, formerly Civil Service Commissioner under Mayor Carter H. Harrison, is not bothering his head much with politics these days, but he is devoting all his time to his contracting business.

Fred A. Wescott, general manager of the Black Diamond Development Company, near Chanute, Kan., is a keen business man, and also as the head member of the firm of Wescott Stone and Company. He is in a position to show capitalists how they can make a lot of easy money, by making investments in oil and gas lands in Kansas.

Officer John W. Hardy, who was the first Afro-American to serve as policeman in the Town of Lake, has been placed on the retired list, and for his faithful services in the past, he will receive a pension the rest of his days. Mr. Hardy was recently elected president of the North Fork Coal and Iron Company, with offices at 3421 Wabash avenue, and in the future he will bend his energies along business lines.

## THE NEGRO QUESTION SOLVED

Lynching, mob violence, Negro crime and the horrors of civil, political and industrial estrangement all find a simple and logical remedy in

### THE KEY

By James Samuel Stemons  
Comprising his treatise, WHY CRIME INCREASES AMONG NEGROES, and his THE NORTH HOLDS THE KEY TO THE RACE QUESTION, formerly published in booklet form.  
Your treatment of the question is remarkable. You have certainly found the true solution.  
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## WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

The new office building for the members of the house is receiving the finishing touches. It is now in quite comfortable shape. The senate office building the contractors hope to have ready for occupancy by March 4. Senators will each have two rooms; representatives have only one room allowed them. Senators always have voted themselves what they pleased. There are no accommodations at present in either the Capitol or the old Maltby building, which is occupied by senators not chairmen of committees, for the more recently elected, and Messrs. Cummins of Iowa, Page of Vermont and Fletcher of Florida, who take their seats this session, will have their quarters in the new office building rushed to completion.

### Quarters For Census Bureau.

The understanding is that when the Maltby building is vacated by senators the census bureau will take it and quarter a large portion of the clerks therein. This used to be a hotel and was rented and subsequently purchased by the government. It is not far from the ugly brick shack that is used by the census bureau and is itself dilapidated. The force of the census bureau is being increased right along, as the next enumeration of the population is to be made in 1910. There is a modified examination of all men and women who secure clerkships in this bureau, but as senators and representatives have a good deal to say as to who shall be selected for the temporary positions the pressure for appointments will be intense from now until the time for getting the work well under way.

### New Men in the House.

According to the unofficial list compiled by the clerk, seventy new faces will be seen among the members of the next house when it meets in extra session in March under a call from President Taft. At the recent election Indiana made more changes in its house delegation than any other state, amounting to eight, the Democrats securing eleven out of thirteen members. In the next house new men will be present from the states named below as follows: Pennsylvania, 7; New York and Ohio, 6 each; Missouri and Iowa, 5 each; Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi and North Carolina, 3 each; Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Wisconsin, 2 each; Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington, 1 each.

### The Saint Gaudens Coins.

President Roosevelt has at last replied to the ridicule and criticism that were caused by the "bloomer eagle" and other peculiarities of design on the recent issue of gold coins. He attended an exhibition of the works of Augustus Saint Gaudens at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and paid eloquent testimony to that artist's mastery of his craft. He declared that his works will stand in the very forefront among the masterpieces of the greatest periods and the greatest peoples.

As to the gold coins, he declared Saint Gaudens "gave us for the first time a beautiful coinage, not yet properly appreciated, but up to which both the official and the popular mind will in the end grow." The president contended that the first few thousands of these coins are more beautiful than any coins since the days of the Greeks and that frequent comments on the bonnet of "eagle plumes on the figure of Liberty" illustrate curiously the exceedingly conventional character of much of our criticism and the frequent inability to understand originality until it has won its place.

### The Senator Puzzled 'Em.

A saloonist and an antisaloonist happened to run into the same senator up at the capitol the other day. Both were anxious to have their views prevail in the matter of liquor legislation for the District, and both were trying to get the senator to express his views on the matter.

The senator smiled and was nice to both, and then he remarked as he bade them adieu, "You know, I have always been a strong believer in putting down drink."

### Art Above the Weather.

In one of Washington's art galleries there hangs a large canvas in an imposing frame. The painting shows a waterfall in one of the states famous for startling natural scenery. The picture has occupied its present place for several years.

"Does it belong here?" asked the visitor of the man in charge.  
"No more than the others you see."  
"Seems to me it should be in the capitol of the state where this scenery is," said the visitor.

"It was painted for the state," replied the man in charge, "but when it was submitted to the art committee they refused to accept it."

"What was the objection?"  
"You see the sky is overcast. The artist put in a gathering storm like an impending calamity. The art committee said it was a reflection on the reputation of the state; that a storm such as is represented was unknown in that latitude."

"Couldn't the artist put in another sky, one that accorded with the state's reputation for sunshine?"  
"I suppose he could, but he refused. He said that the rumpled kicked up by the art committee warranted the storm effect on the canvas, and he refused to budge. He sent it here, and here it remains." CARL SCHOFIELD.